Implementation of Hussainy Committee recommendations pertaining to Westland Helicopters

1196 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE·
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR.
SHRI S S AHLUWALIA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Westland Helicopters have been grounded,

(b) if so, what is the number thereof and the reasons therefor,

(c) what has been the average cost of maintenance of a Westland Helicop ter and how it would compare after the implementation of the Hussainy Committee recommendations,

(d) how does the cost of maintenance of a Westland Helicopter com pare with the cost of maintenance of other Helicopters;

(e) whether Government had taken into account this factor while taking a decision to accept this Helicopter; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to review the services of the Helicopter Corporation of India if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The entire fleet of ninteen Westland Helicopters was grounded with effect from 21st December, 1989 pending an inquiry into the operational and safety aspects of these helicopters by an Expert Committee Following the recommendations of this Committee, Westland helicopters have recently been reinducted into service. At present six of these helicopters are flying for ONGC and Oil India Limited;

(c) The average cost of maintenance of Westland helicopters including reserve for overhaul is estimated to be Rs 26,634 per hour. This does not include customs duties, freight insurance etc

The costs and liabilities involved in maintenance after implementation of the modifications recommended by the Expert Committee are yet to be attributed and hence a proper comparision is not possible at this stage

(d) While the average maintenance cost of Westland helicopters is estimated at Rs 26,634 per hour it is estimated at Rs 13,348 per hour for Dauphin helicopters, which is the other helicopter operated by Pawan Hans Limited

(e) The maintenance cost estimated at the time of purchase of Westland and Dauphin helicopters was Rs. 5901/- and Rs. 3981/- per hour respectively The differential in maintenance cost was compensated by Westland Helicopters Ltd by way of a lump sum operating subsidy of 10 million equivalent to Rs 18 91 crores

(f) As stated above, the Westland helicopters have since been reinducted into service

Development of Alternative Fuels

1197 SHRI B K HARIPRASAD. Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government for the development of alternative fuels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABAN RAO DHAKANE): The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES) has made considerable headway in developing biogas and producer gas as alternative fuels for cooking, lightng and small socale decentralised power generation. A Pilot Project for generation of 10 MW power with surplus rice straw as fuel is also nearing completion in Punjab. Research for developing Hydrogen as a fuel is being carried out. Use of solar energy for cooking, lighting and water and space heating is being accelerated